GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:833
ANSWERED ON:22.10.2008
DECLINING POPULATION OF TIGERS/ LIONS/ LEOPARDS
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the population of tigers/lions/leopards in the country is declining;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) the total number of these wild animals in each category and the number of killings that have reported therein during the last three years and the current year;

(d) the number of cases that have been booked for these illegal killings during the said period and the action taken against the persons found guilty; and

(e) the effective steps taken by the Government to protect the wild animals in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY)

(a) & (b) As per the findings of the recent all India estimation of tiger using the refined methodology, the total country-level population of tiger is 1411 (mid value); the lower and upper limits being 1165 and 1657 respectively. The new findings, which are based on statistical methods and not comparable with the earlier estimates based on pugmark counts, indicate a poor status of tiger population outside tiger reserves and protected areas in the 17 tiger States. The tiger population, by and large, in tiger reserves and protected areas of such States are viable, while requiring ongoing conservation efforts. As informed by the State, the population of lion is 359+10, which has increased over the years. As a part of the recent all India tiger estimation, only the spatial occupancy of leopard within the 17 tiger States has been ascertained. The population of tiger, and spatial occupancy of leopard in tiger States are at Annexure-I. The reasons for the present status of tiger and other wild animals, in general, are at Annexure-II.

(c) Details relating to killing of tiger, lion and leopard during the last three years and the current year, as reported by States, are at Annexure-III.

(d) So far, 131 persons have been arrested / apprehended in various States as per inputs provided by the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau. Case details relating to prosecution / investigation done by States on individual poaching cases are not collated at the Government of India level, since they fall in the public domain.

(e) The steps taken by the Government to protect tiger and other wild animals are at Annexure-IV.